

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-016

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5, 13, 14 15 and 16 have been amended to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In claims 5, 14 and 16, the word "acid" has been inserted after "diphosphonic", and in claim 15 the duplicate word "surfactant" has been deleted. In claim 13 a comma has been added in step (a). Claims 1, 13 and 15 now recite that the aqueous solution has a pH of below 7. New claims 17-22 recite preferred pH ranges. These recitations are supported at page 4, lines 13-14 of the specification.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Carrillo for the courteous personal interview of August 30, 2005 at which the art of record and the claims were discussed. Although no agreement on allowability was reached, the Examiner did agree to at least consider claim amendments reciting that the aqueous solution of the invention has a pH of less than 7. Claims 1, 13 and 15 now recite this feature.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-13 and 15 as obvious over Skee. However, Skee teaches that the pH of the composition is *alkaline* (col. 1, lines 16-17) and that the pH should be *10 or greater* (col. 4, line 22). Sulfuric acid cannot exist in such a composition and even if were added during preparation of the solution it would immediately be neutralized to a salt.

Thus there no disclosure whatsoever in Skee of using a composition comprising sulfuric acid or any other mineral acid for cleaning any metal. Considering that it is regarded as essential in Skee to use an *alkaline* composition, a person skilled in art with knowledge of Skee would not contemplate using a composition actually comprising a mineral acid.

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The addition of Watts in connection with rejection of dependent claims 4-5, 14 and 16 does not cure the defects noted above in the teaching of Skee.


Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued as to claims 1-6 and 8-22.

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Respectfully submitted,

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